

## C L A I M S

What is claimed is:

- 1        1.        An apparatus for automatically routing digital information, comprising:  
2                a.        an interface coupled to receive downloaded digital information having a type;  
3                b.        a storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital information; and  
4                c.        a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically sort and distribute the  
5                        digital information based on the type to one or more secondary devices.
  
- 1        2.        The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital information is downloaded from a  
2        server to the storage device.
  
- 1        3.        The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the storage device is a hard disk drive.
  
- 1        4.        The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the storage device is a semiconductor  
2        memory.
  
- 1        5.        The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital information comprises media  
2        content including music, videos, and data.
  
- 1        6.        The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the controller utilizes a routing table to route  
2        the digital information.
  
- 1        7.        The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the routing table further comprises a file  
2        type column and a device column.

1       8.       The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the routing table utilizes meta data  
2 information within the digital information to route the digital information.

1       9.       The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the routing table is user-defined.

1       10.      The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the controller automatically detects one or  
2 more secondary devices.

1       11.      The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the secondary devices include one or more  
2 of an mp3 player, a video recorder, and a handheld.

1       12.      An apparatus for automatically routing digital information from a computing device to  
2 one or more secondary devices, comprising:

- 3           a.       an interface coupled to receive downloaded digital information having a type;
- 4           b.       a storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital information; and
- 5           c.       a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically:
  - 6               i.       detect the one or more secondary devices;
  - 7               ii.      determine which type of digital information is routed to which secondary
  - 8                       device; and
  - 9               iii.     distribute the digital information to the one or more secondary devices
  - 10                      based on the type.

1       13.      The apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein the digital information is downloaded from  
2 a server to the storage device.

1       14.      The apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein the storage device is a hard disk drive.

1       15.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein the storage device is a hard disk drive.

1       16.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein the digital information comprises media  
2       content including music, videos, and data.

1       17.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein the controller utilizes a routing table to  
2       route the digital information.

1       18.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the routing table further comprises a file  
2       type column and a device column.

1       19.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the routing table utilizes meta data  
2       information within the digital information to route the digital information.

1       20.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the routing table is user-defined.

1       21.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein the secondary devices include one or more  
2       of an mp3 player, a video recorder, and a handheld.

1       22.     An apparatus for automatically routing digital media content from a computing device to  
2       one or more secondary devices comprising:

- 3           a.     an interface coupled to receive downloaded digital media content having a type;
- 4           b.     a storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital media content; and
- 5           c.     a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically:
  - 6               i.     detect the one or more secondary devices;
  - 7               ii.    determine which type of media content is routed to which secondary
  - 8               device utilizing a routing table; and

9                   iii.     distribute the digital media content to the one or more secondary devices  
10                         based on the type.

1     23.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the digital media content is downloaded  
2     from a server to the storage device.

1     24.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the storage device is a hard disk drive.

1     25.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the storage device is a semiconductor  
2     memory.

1     26.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the digital media content includes music,  
2     videos, and data.

1     27.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the routing table further comprises a file  
2     type column and a device column.

1     28.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the routing table utilizes meta data  
2     information within the digital information to route the digital information.

1     29.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the routing table is user-defined.

1     30.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the secondary devices include one or more  
2     of an mp3 player, a video recorder, and a handheld.

1     31.     A network of devices for automatically routing digital information comprising:  
2         a.     a server including digital information;

- b. a computing device coupled to the server for obtaining and routing the digital information; and
- c. one or more secondary devices coupled to the computing device for receiving the digital information from the computing device.

32. The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the digital information comprises media content including music, videos, and data.

33. The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the computing device further comprises:

- a. an interface coupled to receive the digital information having a type;
- b. a storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital information; and
- c. a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically sort and distribute the digital information based on the type to one or more secondary devices.

34. The network of devices as claimed in claim 33 wherein the controller automatically detects the one or more secondary devices.

35. The network of devices as claimed in claim 33 wherein the storage device is a hard disk drive.

36. The network of devices as claimed in claim 33 wherein the storage device is a semiconductor memory.

37. The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the computing device is a personal computer.

1     38.     The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the computing device is a set-top  
2     box.

1     39.     The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the computer device further  
2     comprises a modem device for coupling to the server.

1     40.     The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the secondary devices comprise  
2     an mp3 player, a video recorder, and a handheld device.

1     41.     A method for routing digital information from a computing device to one or more  
2     secondary devices, comprising:  
3         a.     receiving the digital information having a type;  
4         b.     automatically sorting the digital information based on the type; and  
5         c.     automatically distributing the digital information to a corresponding one or more  
6             of the secondary devices based on the type.

1     42.     The method as claimed in claim 41 further comprising downloading the digital  
2     information from a server to the computing device.

1     43.     The method as claimed in claim 41 further comprising automatically detecting the  
2     secondary devices.

1     44.     The method as claimed in claim 41 further comprising storing the digital information in  
2     the computing device until the corresponding one or more of the secondary devices is coupled to  
3     the computing device.

1     45.     A method for routing digital information from a computing device to one or more  
2     secondary devices, comprising:

- 3           a.     receiving the digital information having a type;
- 4           b.     automatically detecting the secondary devices;
- 5           c.     automatically sorting the digital information based on the type; and
- 6           d.     automatically distributing the digital information to a corresponding one or more  
7                 of the secondary devices based on the type.

1     46.     The method as claimed in claim 45 further comprising downloading the digital  
2     information from a server to the computing device.

1     47.     The method as claimed in claim 45 further comprising storing the digital information in  
2     the computing device until the corresponding one or more of the secondary devices is coupled to  
3     the computing device.